

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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NEA-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 USIA-15

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 1953

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, NATO

SUBJECT: PROPOSED NATO CONSULTATIONS ON LOS ISSUES

REF: STATE 70227 (NOTAL)

BEGIN SUMMARY: IN VIEW OF CONFLICTS WITH MAY 10, 13 OR 14 AS DATE FOR LOS CONSULTATIONS, POLADS CHAIRMAN SUGGESTED SEEKING AGREEMENT TO MAY 21. COMMITTEE ALSO DISCUSSED AGENDA FOR CONSULTATIONS, WITH SUGGESTIONS THIS WEEK FROM FRANCE AND CANADA. GREEKS OBJECTED TO ITEM ON STRAITS, AND NUMBER OF ALLIES OPPOSED ITEM ON CONTINENTAL SHELF. STILL, AN AGENDA IS BEGINNING TO SHAPE UP, AND WE WOULD APPRECIATE WASHINGTON COMMENTS PLUS INSTRUCTIONS ON MAY 21 AS CONSULTATION DATE. END SUMMARY.

1. ON APRIL 9, POLADS AGAIN DISCUSSED POSSIBLE DATE AND AGENDA FOR NATO CONSULTATIONS ON LAW OF THE SEA ISSUES. U.S. REP PROPOSED MAY 14, BUT THIS DATE WAS EVEN WORSE FOR ICELANDERS
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THAN 13TH, AND HEAD OF FRENCH LOS DEL COULD NOT BE PRESENT THAT DAY. FRENCH POLAD EXPLAINED MAY 10 WAS IMPOSSIBLE BECAUSE OF CONFLICTING MEETING IN LONDON. CHAIRMAN SUGGESTED SEEKING AGREEMENT ON TUESDAY, MAY 21. REQUEST INSTRUCTIONS.

2. FRENCH REP SUGGESTED FIVE-ITEM AGENDA: A) STRAITS, B) TERRITORIAL SEAS, C) JURISDICTION OF RIPARIAN STATES BEYOND THE TERRITORIAL SEA, D) REGIME OF THE HIGH SEAS, AND E) POWERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL BODY TO BE SET UP FOR EXPLOITATION OF THE SEABED. FRANCE WOULD LIKE THESE SUBJECTS EXAMINED FROM THE MILITARY AND SECURITY VIEWPOINTS.

3. CANADIAN REP SUGGESTED ADDING ITEMS ON THE MILITARY IMPLICATIONS OF THE ECONOMIC ZONE AND SECURITY IMPLICATIONS IN RELATION TO THE INTERNATIONAL SEABED AREA. (HE WILL SEEK OTTAWA CLARIFICATION OF LATTER SUGGESTION.)

4. UK REP SUGGESTED CONCENTRATING ON NAVIGATION ISSUES AS U.S. HAD SUGGESTED, TO INCLUDE TRANSIT OF STRAITS. HOWEVER, UK DID NOT WANT TO DISCUSS CONTINENTAL SHELF. ITALIAN POLAD AGREED WITH UK. GREEK REP REPEATED THAT ATHENS WANTED NO ITEM ON STRAITS ON CONTINENTAL SHELF. PORTUGUESE REP SUPPORTED UK AND GREECE REGARDING CONTINENTAL SHELF.

5. INTERNATIONAL STAFF WILL SOON ISSUE DRAFT AGENDA. DOES WASHINGTON HAVE COMMENTS ON HOW AGENDA IS SHAPING UP?

6. TURKISH REP, ON INSTRUCTIONS, UNDERLINED IMPORTANCE OF TURKISH STRAITS TO HIS COUNTRY, THE ALLIANCE AND THE USSR, AND ANKARA'S HOPE ALLIES WOULD KEEP THIS IN MIND IN PREPARING FOR LOS CONFERENCE. ITALIAN REP CALLED FOR WIDEST POSSIBLE AGREEMENT "AT 15" ON LOS ISSUES BEFORE CARACAS.
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